



Bath Saracens RFC
Established 1947 as Civil Service RFC

Affiliated to the RFU, Bath Combination RFU and Civil Service Sports Association

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VP Newsletter
May 2013

Greetings!

The last few months have seen the usual mixture of highs and lows (or as our illustrious president once put it 'dings and dong's').

The highs have included our current form, good numbers at training and on match days, our biggest league win for many years, and a great atmosphere throughout the club. Thankfully the 'lows' have been few and far between, however these have included turning up with only 11 players for an away match at Cricklade at the end of November and the weather disrupting a number of scheduled matches either side of Christmas. The recent Easter period saw us with games against the 2 league leaders and while with a number of regular players away we were unable to compete to the level that we may have wished, both games saw us able to field a full side with replacements at a time when several local sides (some of whom were competing in higher leagues) failed to fulfill fixtures. Coaches Tom Wildsmith and Lee Garton have worked hard to achieve and maintain the level of performance on matchdays, and this has been supplemented by several well attended training sessions run by Ian 'Smudge' Smith, who is the local Rugby Development officer. This has led to some great results, notably a 40-22 win away to Supermarine II's, a 92-5 win against Combe Down II's, a result that gave the club its highest points tally in a game since 2007, a nail biting 21-19 return win against Cricklade, and a nomination for the Bath Chronicle's 'team of the month award' for February.

It has not just been the results that have been notable. The standard and style in which the team has performed has also reflected the hard work and commitment from all involved.



Finally, congratulations to the following players who have picked up player of the month awards since the last newsletter. Well done chaps!

October: Pete Baldwin

November: Jack Goodfriend

December/January: Graham Johnstone

February: Ed Bell

On the non playing front:

Linda Donaldson, owner of our sponsors 'geometry pr' is completing a gruelling sponsored cycle ride from Lands End to Jon O'Groats in June. She'll be raising money for the Bath Rugby Foundation that supports the development of rugby in the area. To find out more about this event please follow the link on our web-site. The club wish Linda every success!

Congratulations To Steve Hiscox, Frazer Lacey, Ted Harding & James Roper on completing the recent Bath half marathon!

A sad farewell to John Catchpole.

JC has taken a new job in his home county of Cornwall and he and his family will be leaving the area at the end of the month. He was due to play his last game of the season for Sarries on the 23rd March at Wootton Bassett and the planned coach trip was to be a great opportunity to give him a good 'send off'. Unfortunately the game was cancelled due to weather, however a large gathering of faces 'old and new' assembled at the Ram and enjoyed an excellent afternoon. Entertainment included the dreaded 'golf ball', the 3 man lift, and of course a rousing chorus of songs from the club songbook! JC has been a great asset to the club over the last decade and we hope to see him wearing a Sarries shirt again in the future.



geometry pr

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Thanks to Len Wilcox we now have a few photographs in the archive that were previously missing. If you were around at the time, check out 1960/61, 61/62 and 66/67 on the website. There is also a new link in the 'history' section to a photo taken at the inauguration of our current pitch at the Civil Service club in September 1970. Old records like this are priceless, so if you have anything that can be added to the web-site please contact our 'webmaster' Hugh Sawyer. He's currently working with the team photo from season 1985/86, on his mission to add missing names, so join in and help if you can!

Toor

The annual tour took place over the last weekend in April with twenty-one fezz-sporting participants invading Weymouth. A narrow loss to Swanage and Wareham did little to dampen spirits. This hugely successful tour rounded off a most enjoyable season.

Friday May 10th

Annual club dinner at the Bath 'rec'



The price is now set at £25 per head. As usual wives and girlfriends are welcome. Please contact Mark Penny on 07854 932002 or thegulls567@yahoo.co.uk to book your places.

Friday May 31st.

AGM

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. at The Royal Oak, Widcombe

Best wishes to you all!

(And never let them dangle in the dust!)